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DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

26 year-old repeat offender also sentenced for possessing firearm

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and ATF Special Agent in Charge David G. Harper announced that ANDREW SIMMONS, III, age 26, from Lake Charles, Louisiana was sentenced today in federal court to 300 months (25 years) imprisonment to be followed by 10 years supervised release by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

SIMMONS was indicted in November 2005 after officers of the Lake Charles Police Department executed a search warrant at SIMMONS residence and discovered crack cocaine and a .357 caliber revolver in SIMMONS bedroom. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives was called upon to assist with the investigation involving the firearm. SIMMONS pled guilty to the federal violations in June 2006.

The crack cocaine found in SIMMONS apartment weighed 77.3 grams and the revolver was loaded.

SIMMONS was convicted in May 2000 in Chambers County, Texas for possession of controlled

substances. He was sentenced to ten years probation, which he was still serving at the time of his arrest in 2005. It is a federal violation for a convicted felon to possess firearms and/or ammunition.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

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